

Remarks

The specification has been amended to correct antecedents, reference numbers, or generally to making cosmetic changes similar to those suggested by the Examiner in parent application Serial Number 10/051,420. Applicant does not believe the scope of the specification has been changed and no new matter has been added.

The pending claims 7-20 represent claims that were canceled from parent application Serial Number 10/051,420 in order to place the parent application in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 7 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for the term fuser bias voltage.

Independent claim 7 recites applying a bias voltage to a fuser to charge the fuser, the fuser bias voltage being affected by the print media contacting the fuser and determining whether the print media is in the fuser based on the measured fuser bias voltage. For example, the mere presence of print media within the fuser can be determined which does not depend on a jam occurring in the fuser. Kinoshita, below, teaches a system that detects when a jam occurs and does not teach or suggest the recited features of claim 7.

Kinoshita – U.S. Patent No. 5,506,667 (cited in the patent application) teaches determining when a recording sheet is jammed at the nipper of a fuser. The determination is made based on when the “effective area” of the nipper increases in size. The size increase is caused by a paper jam (e.g. recording sheet) which in turn causes the number of electrodes in the electrode layer of the heater roller to increase so that the electric resistance of the heater roller decreases (see column 4, lines 1-5). Kinoshita explains that the determination requires prior knowledge of the size of the recording sheet being printed (e.g. permission half-width values C) and a center electric current value Ia, or the center voltage value Va and permission voltage half-width values E.

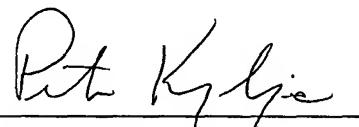
Thus, Kinoshita fails to teach or suggest applying bias voltage to charge the fuser and to determine whether print media is in the fuser based on the measured fuser bias voltage. The system of Kinoshita can determine when a sheet jams in the fuser but Kinoshita does not teach or suggest determining when the sheet is in the fuser without a jam.

In independent claim 15, the term bias voltage has been amended to reflect a reason for allowance indicated in the parent application Serial Number 10/051,420. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, **claims 7-22** are now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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